

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 EA-12
PA-02 /150 W

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R 141103Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8580
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 08796

USOECD

DEPARTMENT PASS OES/NET FOR PROCHNIK, EUR/RPE FOR
LAASE, DOE PASS VANDERRYN PERGE, LEARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: NEA RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:
MARCH 8-9, 1978 MEETING

1. THE NEA RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MET ON MARCH 8-9, 1978 IN PARIS. TWO INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES ON WASTE MANAGEMENT WERE
APPROVED.

2. A TWO- OR THREE-DAY WORKSHOP ON THE PROCESSING
OF COMBUSTIBLE WASTE WILL BE CONVENED DURING THE
SUMMER OF 1978 TO DEFINE AND PREPARE A PROGRAM
ALONG LINES ALREADY DEVELOPED BY THE GROUP OF
NATIONAL NOMINEES ON ALPHA-BEARING WASTES. THE
INITIAL YEAR'S WORK WILL BE BASED UPON EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION AND VISITS. BELGIUM, FRG, ITALY,
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SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, U.K., JAPAN, U.S. AND THE CEC
WILL PARTICIPATE. A REPORT COMPARING VARIOUS PROCESSES
FOR TREATING COMBUSTIBLE WASTE WILL ALSO BE ASSEMBLED
AT THE WORKSHOP.

3. THE NEA SECRETARIAT WILL ALSO BEGIN ORGANIZING
APPROPRIATE MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS TO IMPLEMENT

A PROGRAM OF ACTION IN THE FIELD OF GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL. THE INITIAL PHASE WILL BE BASED UPON A U.S. PROPOSAL ON DATA COMPILED AND INTERPRETATION. THE FULL PROPOSAL WAS CONSIDERED TOO BROAD AND WILL BE REDUCED SOMEWHAT IN SCOPE. A MEETING WILL ALSO BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS CURRENT R&D PROGRAMS ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL WHICH CAN BE OPENED TO DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY OTHER COUNTRIES. SWEDEN, BELGIUM, FRANCE, FRG, CANADA, U.S. AND DENMARK EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

4. CONCERNING THE POLVANI REPORT, THE DRAFT SECRETARIAT PAPER WHICH SUMMARIZED COMMENTS ON THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT WAS APPROVED WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC COMMENTS ARE NOT KEYED TO THE INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLVANI GROUP. SPECIFIC U.S. COMMENTS PROVIDED IN MISSION GUIDANCE ARE FOR THE MOST PART ADEQUATELY COVERED IN THE STATEMENT APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE.

5. THE U.S. SUGGESTION THAT THE COMMITTEE NOTE THAT THE REPORT FAILS TO CONSIDER THE CONTAINMENT AND ISOLATION APPROACH ADEQUATELY AND CONSEQUENTLY PLACES INSUFFICIENT EMPHASIS ON CONTAMINATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ENVIRONMENT EVOKED CONSIDERABLE AND LENGTHY DEBATE AND WAS SUPPORTED ONLY BY THE DELEGATE FROM CANADA. RATHER THAN INSERT A MINORITY VIEW IN THE STATEMENT, U.S. DELEGATE AGREED TO THE INSERTION OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE IN A PARAGRAPH OF THE DRAFT DEALING WITH THE NEED FOR FURTHER REVIEW OF SEA DUMPING PRACTICES, NAMELY: "THIS REVIEW WILL INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF ISSUES, SUCH AS CONTAINMENT VERSUS DILUTION AND DISPERSION WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO FURTHER DEFINITION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT GOALS."

6. THE PORTION OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT WHICH REFERS TO THE INFCE EVALUATION WAS AMENDED TO INDICATE THAT INFCE COULD NOT BE FACTORED INTO THE POLVANI

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581

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REPORT IN VIEW OF THE TIMING OF THE REPORT.

7. ON A DIFFERENT BUT RELATED SUBJECT, THE DUTCH DELEGATE BELIEVED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD DRAW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO CHANGE EXISTING ATTITUDES IN SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES AGAINST THE EXECUTION OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK. HE PROPOSED THAT A SEPARATE RECOMMENDATION BE FORWARDED TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO TAKE ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENABLE FIELD WORK SUCH AS EXPLORATORY DRILLINGS TO BEGIN. THE U.S. AND U.K. DELEGATE SUGGESTED THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION BE MADE PART OF THE POLVANI COMMENTS BUT THE COMMITTEE VOTED TO PREPARE A SEPARATE STATEMENT.

8. IN OTHER ACTION, THE RWMC CHAIRMAN AGREED TO REPRESENT THE COMMITTEE AT MEETINGS OF THE CRPPH GROUP STUDYING EFFLUENT RELEASES FROM THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. THIS ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT PORTIONS OF THE STUDY DEALING WITH MANAGEMENT

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TECHNOLOGIES ADEQUATELY REFLECT WASTE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES. THE NEA SECRETARIAT ASSURED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE STUDY WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT PRIOR REVIEW BY THE RWMC. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED TO HAVE THE NEA SECRETARIAT CONTINUE TO

TAKE PART IN ALL MEETINGS OF THE SEABED WORKING GROUP
FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING THE COMMITTEE INFORMED
OF ITS ACTIVITIES. A DECISION AS TO WHETHER THE
SEABED WORKING GROUP SHOULD BECOME AN ESTABLISHED
SUB GROUP OF THE RWMC WAS DEFERRED TO A LATER
DATE.

9. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RWMC IS SCHEDULED
FOR NOVEMBER 20-21, 1978.

SALZMAN

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